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BOOK NOTICES.

Rivers of North America: A Reading Lesson for Students of Geography and Geology; I. C. Russell. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1898. pp. xix + 327. \$2.00.

The fourth monograph dealing with the physical geography of North America that has just appeared from the pen of Prof. I. C. Russell is a handsome and very welcome volume, and by far the most important of the series. Up to this time we have had no popular or easily accessible consideration of the phenomena of rivers from the modern standpoint. All the adequate treatments, even for beginners in the science of geomorphology, have been in scientific periodicals, in part out of print. Prof. Russell has practically given us a text-book on the development of land forms, with particular reference to the work of rivers in North America, and has presented his facts in a well ordered and attractive way. The book is more inclusive, of more general value, and capable of broader usage than the title would indicate.

After a short introduction, the author considers the following large topics in separate chapters: The Disintegration and Decay of Rocks; Laws Governing the Streams; Influence of Inequality in the Hardness of Rocks on Riverside Scenery; Material Carried by Streams in Suspension and in Solution; Stream Deposits; Stream Terraces; Stream Development; Some of the Characteristics of American Rivers; The Life History of a River.

In Chapter II. we find a good treatment of the power and results of stream work, and a helpful consideration of peneplains and base-level of erosion. Chapter IV. considers in detail the complex problem of the loads of streams and degradation, particularly in reference to rate, both mechanically and chemically.

The last chapters are devoted more fully to the forms of land or waste due to river work. Alluvial cones, flood plains, deltas and terraces are treated fully as to origin, classification, and distribution. Many illustrative examples are mentioned, and references to literature are quoted.

Perhaps the most interesting chapter for a student of geomorphology is that on Stream Development. Here we have a well digested and very clear account of the development of consequent and subsequent streams on the more common land forms. Particular reference is made to the rivers of the Appalachians, and to

the details of river history which have been worked out in this region by our American geologists. We find the recently introduced and very helpful terms descriptive of different features of drainage, used in such a way that the beginner finds here the best available statements of the more necessary definitions. It should be stated further that the author has not included every term that has been suggested in the last few years, but only those which have appealed to others than the inventors, and which fill a need in our terminology.

The following chapter is devoted to a more concise account of our chief American rivers, given in such a form that it will be of help to the general reader and teacher, and should be much used for reference.

The last chapter is one of those mind-broadening considerations of earth forms and processes, from the earth rather than the human standpoint, that we have come to expect as the climax in Prof. Russell's monographs. The reader of this chapter should find himself becoming more and more in sympathy with the world about him, and more and more awakened to the pleasures of a scientific study of the earth and its relations to man.

The book is pleasing to the eye as to its form and typography, and well indexed. Our great regret is that the four monographs, dealing with the Lakes, Glaciers, Volcanoes and Rivers of North America are not uniform in appearance. Were they all printed after the manner of the last, they would form a library series as pleasing to the librarian as to the student of geography.

R. E. D.

Leçons de Géographie Physique ; A. De Lapparent, 2^{me} Edition : Masson, Paris, 1898. pp. xvi + 718.

The very helpful *Leçons de Géographie* of Prof. De Lapparent has been so well received, and proved itself so useful, that a new edition has been issued in about two years from the date of the first. The book in question is indeed a *new* edition, for the author has rewritten and amplified his former contribution very extensively. Two new chapters, one on the ocean and one on the classification of mountains, have been added, and the illustrations have been enriched by some 46 new cuts.

M. Emm. de Margerie has assisted in the work, and has made good use of his marvellous acquaintance with current geographic literature. It is undoubtedly due largely to his work that we owe so many references to Suess's *La Face de la Terre*. Indeed, the